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**CLAIM AMENDMENTS:**

A listing of a set of claims 1-40 (including a cancellation of claims 1-20, and an addition of new claims 21-40) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR §1.121. This listing of claims 1-40 will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A communications system, comprising:

a first communication station operable to receive a first data stream including a first data packet from a first end station and to receive a second data stream including a second data packet from a second end station,

wherein, in response to receiving the first data stream from the first end station and failing to receive the second data stream from the second end station, the first communication station is further operable to multiplex the first data packet in a combined data packet, and

wherein the combined data packet includes a first header field indicative of a presence of the first data packet in the combined data packet and indicative of an absence of the second data packet from the combined data packet; and

a second communication station operable to demultiplex the first data packet in the combined data packet based on the first header field; and

a first channel for transmitting the combined data packet from the first communication station to the second communication station.

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22. (New) The communication system of claim 21,  
wherein the first communication station is further operable to receive a third data stream including a third data packet from a third end station;  
wherein, in response to receiving the third data stream from the third end station, the first communication station is further operable to multiplex the third data packet in the combined data packet;  
wherein the first header field indicates a presence of the third data packet in the combined data packet; and  
wherein the second communication station is further operable to demultiplex the first data packet and the third data packet in the combined data packet based on the first header field.
23. (New) The communication system of claim 21,  
wherein the first communication station is further operable to receive a third data stream including a third data packet from a third end station; and  
wherein, in response to failing to receive the third data stream from the third end station, the first header field indicates an absence of the third data packet from the combined data packet.
24. (New) The communication system of claim 21,  
wherein the first communication station is further operable to receive a third data stream including a third data packet from a third end station;  
wherein, in response to receiving the third data stream from the third end station, the first communication station is further operable to multiplex the third data packet in the combined data packet;  
wherein the combined data packet further includes a second header field indicative of a presence of the third data packet in the combined data packet; and  
wherein the second communication station is further operable to demultiplex the first data packet and the third data packet in the combined data packet based on the first header field and the second header field.

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25. (New) The communication system of claim 24, wherein the first header field is indicative of a presence of the second header field in the combined data packet.
26. (New) The communication system of claim 21,  
wherein the first communication station is further operable to receive a third data stream including a third data packet from a third end station;  
wherein, in response to failing to receive the third data stream from the third end station, the combined data packet further includes a second header field indicative of an absence of the third data packet from the combined data packet.
27. (New) The communication system of claim 26, wherein the first header field is indicative of a presence of the second header field in the combined data packet.
28. (New) The communication system of claim 21, wherein the combined data packet further includes at least one of a RTP header, a UDP header and a IP header.
29. (New) The communication system of claim 21,  
wherein the first data stream further includes at least one of a RTP header, a UDP header and a IP header; and  
wherein the first communication station is further operable to generate a signaling packet indicative of an analysis of at least one of the RTP header, the UDP header and the IP header.
30. (New) The communication system of claim 29, further comprising:  
a second channel for transmitting the signaling packet from the first communication station to the second communication station.

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31. (New) A first communication station, comprising:  
means for receiving a first data stream including a first data packet from a first end station and to receive a second data stream including a second data packet from a second end station,  
wherein, in response to receiving the first data stream from the first end station and failing to receive the second data stream from the second end station, the first data packet is multiplexed in a combined data packet; and  
wherein the combined data packet includes a first header field indicative of a presence of the first data packet in the combined data packet and indicative of an absence of the second data packet from the combined data packet; and  
means for transmitting the combined data packet along a first channel to a second communication station.
32. (New) The first communication station of claim 31, further comprising:  
means for receiving a third data stream including a third data packet from a third end station,  
wherein, in response to receiving the third data stream from the third end station, the third data packet is multiplexed in the combined data packet, and  
wherein the first header field indicates a presence of the third data packet in the combined data packet.
33. (New) The first communication station of claim 31, further comprising:  
means for receiving a third data stream including a third data packet from a third end station,  
wherein, in response to failing to receive the third data stream from the third end station, the first header field indicates an absence of the third data packet from the combined data packet.

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34. (New) The first communication station of claim 31, further comprising:  
means for receiving a third data stream including a third data packet from a third end station,  
wherein, in response to receiving the third data stream from the third end station, the third data packet is multiplexed in the combined data packet, and  
wherein the combined data packet further includes a second header field indicative of a presence of the third data packet in the combined data packet.
35. (New) The first communication station of claim 34, wherein the first header field is indicative of a presence of the second header field in the combined data packet.
36. (New) The first communication station of claim 31, further comprising:  
means for receiving a third data stream including a third data packet from a third end station,  
wherein, in response to failing to receive the third data stream from the third end station, the combined data packet further includes a second header field indicative of an absence of the third data packet from the combined data packet.
37. (New) The first communication station of claim 31, wherein the first header field is indicative of a presence of the second header field in the combined data packet.
38. (New) The first communication station of claim 31, wherein the combined data packet further includes at least one of a RTP header, a UDP header and a IP header.

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39. (New) The first communication station of claim 31, further comprising:  
means for generating a signaling packet indicative of an analysis of at least one of a RTP header, a UDP header and a IP header included within the first data stream, and  
means for transmitting the signaling packet along a second channel to the second communication station
40. (New) A communication station, comprising:  
means for receiving a combined data stream including at least one header field indicative of a presence in the combined data stream of a first data packet from a first end station in the combined data stream and indicative of an absence from the combined data stream of a second data packet from a second end station; and  
means for demultiplexing the first data packet based on the at least one header field.